Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCS-06 CA-01 PPT-01 //094 W

-----028321 111849Z /40

R 111000Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2328 INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN USLO RIYADH

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH SAUDI MINISTER OF INTERIOR

REF: (A) DHAHRAN 490 (B) STATE 129491 (C) STATE 141815

- 1. ON JUNE 4 AMBASSADOR MET WITH SAUDI MINISTER OF INTERIOR, PRINCE NAYEF BIN ABDUL AL-AZIZ. DISCUSSION COVERED RECENT CONGRESSIONAL VOTE ON F-15 SALE. MINISTER'S VISIT TO U.S., AND MACDONALD COMMERCIAN DISPUTE IN DHAHRAN.
- 2. PRINCE NAYEF EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE IN OUTCOME OF F-15 DEBATE IN U.S. HE SAID ACTUAL NUMBER OF PLANES WAS NOT IMPORTANT BUT DECISION WAS REAFFIRMATION OF TRADITIONAL SAUDI-U.S. FRIENDSHIP. HE PRAISED EFFORTS BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ON BEHALF OF SALE AND SAID SAUDIS WERE GRATEFUL TO PEOPLE WHO STOOD UP AND SUPPORTED SAUDI REQUEST.
- 3. PRINCE NAYEF SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS TRIP TO US. HE SAID HIS SON IN PORTLAND HAD WANTED CONFIDENTIAL

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HIM TO COME FOR HIS GRADUATION. AS TIME WAS SHORT, HE DECLINED INVITATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON. HE DID SAY THAT IF USG HAD ANY SPECIFIC SUBJECT TO DISCUSS, HE WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE TO VISIT U.S. AT LATER DATE WHEN THERE WOULD BE MORE TIME TO MEET U.S. OFFICIALS. HE THANKED ADMIRAL TURNER FOR HIS OFFER OF ASSISTANCE.

4. PRINCE NAYEF DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO MACDONALD CASE. HE WAS APPRECIATIVE OF DEPARTMENT REACTION OUTLINING FACTS OF CASE AND EMPHASIZING THAT SAG HAD NOT VIOLATED MACDONALD'S RIGHTS OR OTHERWISE PURSUED THE CASE OUTSIDE LEGALLY PRESCRIBED CHANNELS. HE PARTICULARLY THANKED CONSULATE IN DHAHRAN FOR ITS COOPERATIVE ROLE AND CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WHT SAUDI AUTHORITIES. HE THEN COMPLAINED THAT CONGEN HAD ISSUED MACDONALD "THREE PASSPORTS" IN SPITE OF FACT THAT CONGEN KNEW THERE WAS INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY. HE URGED USG TO COOPERATE MORE FULLY WITH SAUDI AUTHORITIES IN SUCH SITUATIONS. HE HOPED USG WOULD NOT FACILITATE ESCAPE OF AMERICANS WHERE USG KNEW LEGAL PROCEEDINGS WERE UNDERWAY.

5. FYI: CONGEN DHAHRAN ISSUED "SECOND" TEMPORARY PASSPORT TO MACDONALD WHEN HE REPORTED THAT HIS TEMPORARY PASSPORT, ALSO ISSUED BY CONGEN, WAS PRESUMED TO BE LOST ALTHOUGH IN SAFEKEEPING WITH A FRIEND.

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